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KRASKIN, MOORMAN & COSSON, LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ORIGINAL

2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 520
Washington, D.C. 20037

Telephone (202) 296-8890
Telecopier (202) 296-8893

March 30, 2005

RECEIVED

MAR 30 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: Madison River Telephone Company, LLC,
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., BellSouth
Long Distance, Inc., Joint Petition for Waiver of
the Definition of "Study Area" of the Appendix-
Glossary of Part 36 of the Commission's Rules,
Petition for Waiver of Sec. 69.3(e)(11) of the
Commission's Rules

CC Docket 96-45

Ex Parte Filing

Dear Ms: Dortch:

Attached for the record in this proceeding is a copy of a letter dated March 28, 2005 from the North Carolina Utilities Commission ("NCUC") which states that the NCUC does not oppose a grant of the waiver of the definition of "study area" requested in the Joint Petition.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours



David Cosson
Counsel to Madison River Telephone Company, Inc.

Attachment
Cc: Gary Seigel

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State of North Carolina
Utilities Commission

4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4325

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March 28, 2005

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45
Madison River, MebTel and BellSouth
Joint Petition for Expedited Waiver
DA 05-521

FILED
MAR 28 2005
Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

*P-55, Sub 1541
P-35, Sub 101*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) hereby submits this statement in response to the Joint Petition for Expedited Waiver filed by Madison River Telephone Company, LLC (Madison River), MEBTEL, Inc. (MebTel), and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on or about January 27, 2005, in the above-referenced docket. The NCUC has reviewed and granted the petition to transfer the Milton and Gatewood (North Carolina) exchanges from BellSouth to MebTel, filed with the NCUC on December 29, 2004. This action was taken on March 24, 2005, in Docket No. P-55, Sub 1541 and P-35, Sub 101.

MebTel has for many years held a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued by the NCUC authorizing it to provide intraLATA and intrastate telecommunications services in the Mebane, North Carolina, exchange. In addition, on December 15, 1997, in Docket No. P-100, Sub 133c, the NCUC designated MebTel as an eligible telecommunications carrier under federal law for receiving federal universal service support for its NCUC-assigned service area. Furthermore, since 2001 the NCUC has annually certified to the FCC, pursuant to 47 USC §254(e) and 47 CFR 54.314, that MebTel should continue to be eligible to receive federal universal service support finding.

*Mailed to
parties of
record*

430 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
Telephone No: (919) 733-4249
Facsimile No: (919) 733-7300

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
March 28, 2005
Page 2

Consistent with the aforementioned actions previously taken, the NCUC does not oppose a grant of the waiver of the definition of "Study Area" requested in the Joint Petition for Expedited Waiver filed with the FCC.

Please contact Robert Bennink, the Commission's General Counsel, at 919/733-0833 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,


James Y. Kerr, II
Commissioner

DL/pb